



National Transportation Safety Board

## The Chairman's Corner

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Monday, April 17, 2006

### ***President Bush to Nominate Rosenker as NTSB Chairman***

*A personal message from the Acting Chairman*

To the men and women of the NTSB,

Last Thursday, April 13, President Bush announced his intention to nominate me to be Chairman of the NTSB. I am very grateful to the President for his confidence in my ability to lead this great organization. If confirmed, I will work diligently to maintain the high professionalism and competence that has been the hallmark of this well respected agency. I look forward to a speedy and successful confirmation process.

Thanks to all of you for your tremendous support during the past year while serving as your Acting Chairman. As we move forward together, we will continue to raise the bar for transportation safety.

Sincerely,

Mark V. Rosenker

### ***NTSB Determines Improperly Installed Fuel-Injection Line Caused Fire on Small Passenger Vessel in Florida in 2004***

In its meeting this week, the National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause of the fire on board the Express Shuttle II was a fractured, improperly installed fuel-injection line on the inboard side of the starboard engine that allowed diesel fuel to spray onto the engine and ignite. Contributing to the cause of the fire was the failure of Paradise of Port Richey, the owner of the vessel, to have a preventive maintenance program, which could have identified the company's ongoing problems with the vessel's fuel lines before the failed line led to the fire.

On October 17, 2004, a fire broke out in the engine room of the Express Shuttle II in the Pithlachascotee River near Port Richey, Florida. The U.S. small passenger vessel was returning from the Gulf of Mexico, where it had ferried 78 passengers to a casino boat offshore. The master and two deckhands were the only persons on board when the fire occurred. After attempting to fight the fire with portable fire extinguishers, the crew abandoned the vessel and were rescued by a passing recreational boater. One member of the crew was treated at the local hospital for smoke inhalation.

As a result of the accident, the Safety Board made recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard, Paradise of Port Richey, and Caterpillar, Inc.



### ***NTSB's Dr. Joseph Kolly Receives Commerce Department Fellowship***

The Safety Board's Dr. Joseph M. Kolly, Deputy Director, Office of Research and Engineering, has been selected as a fellow in the Commerce Science and Technology Fellowship (ComSci) Program, sponsored by the Department of Commerce. As one of 19 recipients, Dr. Kolly will study how the Legislative Branch works with leaders in science and technology to form legislation.

As a "ComSci Fellow", Dr. Kolly will meet weekly for special programs and lectures that address current science, technology, and technology-policy issues presented by speakers from government agencies, the private sector, and academia.

## ***Member Higgins Urges Florida to Strengthen Recreational Boating Laws***

Member Kitty Higgins, accompanied by Bill Gossard, Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications, met with the Florida Boating Advisory Council in Tallahassee, Florida, on April 7. She urged the Council to support stronger requirements for the use of personal floatation devices (PFDs) by children and education for all boaters. Although Florida has enacted many of the Safety Board's boating safety recommendations, it has about 10 percent of the nation's boating deaths. Florida currently requires children under age 6 to wear PFDs. Member Higgins called for required PFD use by children under age 13. Although Florida has a mandatory education requirement for recreational boaters, it has a very lengthy phase-in period, which she said should be expedited. Following Member Higgins's remarks, the Council voted to recommend support for both of these changes in the 2007 Florida legislature. This was Member Higgins's first advocacy trip focusing on recreational boating since becoming a Board Member in January of this year.

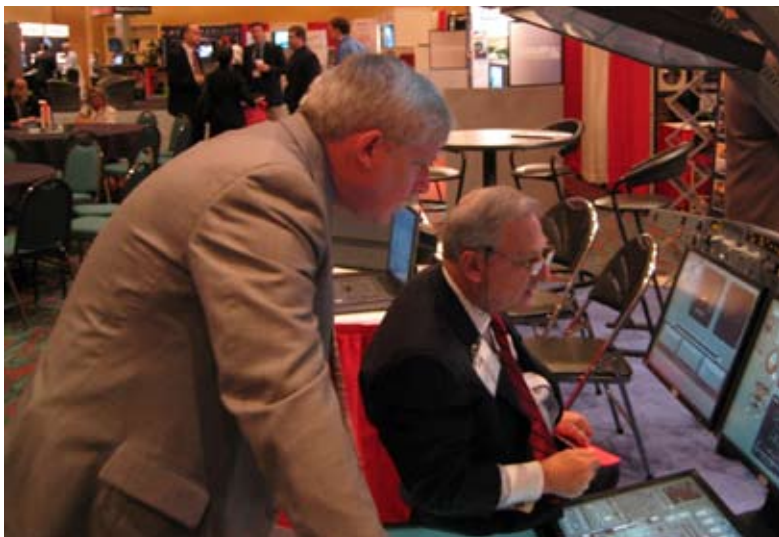
## ***NTSB Acting Chairman Rosenker Speaks at Aviation and Marine Conferences***

The National Transportation Safety Board's Acting Chairman, Mark V. Rosenker, recently gave keynote speeches at the 2006 World and Regional Airline Training Conference in Orlando, Florida, and at the 44th Annual National Association of Marine Surveyors Conference in Annapolis, Maryland.

In his speech at the training conference, he emphasized the important role of both government and industry in fostering the use of training to prevent aviation accidents. He also noted that a fundamental tenet of any training program must be to ensure that flight crews master all normal, abnormal, and emergency aspects of flight operations.

At the Marine Conference, Mr. Rosenker discussed the Safety Board's investigation of marine accidents and the cooperation required from everyone involved in promoting and ensuring marine safety. Mr. Rosenker told the audience that everyone in the marine industry is responsible for ensuring the safety of the system.

The full text of both speeches is available on the NTSB website at: [www.ntsb.gov](http://www.ntsb.gov)



*After keynote address to the World Aviation Training Conference, Acting Chairman Rosenker was briefed on the latest in aviation training technology. In the photograph above, John Cox, retired U.S. Airways Captain and present President of Safety Operating Systems is explaining the latest in cockpit familiarization simulators.*



*In addition to attending the World Aviation Training Conference, Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker visited the JetBlue training facility located at Orlando International Airport. In the above photo, the Acting Chairman is seen addressing one of two "Crew Resource Management" classes he spoke to during his visit.*

## ***Press Club Fellows Visit NTSB***

On April 3, the National Press Club's Paul Miller Fellows visited the Safety Board. During the 2-hour visit, the 19 fellows met with NTSB investigation staff and members of the Public Affairs staff, and toured the agency's labs. Paul Miller fellows are journalists who are new to the Washington beat.